

C L A I M S

The following is a detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application. A status identifier is provided for every claim and the current text of every claim is presented, unless the claim has been cancelled. Current amendments to the claims are expressed in the detailed listing by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlining (for added matter).

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of providing a product to a buyer who purchased the product through a purchasing system, comprising:

receiving from the buyer redemption information;
receiving from the purchasing system verification information enabling the authorization of the buyer to take possession of the product;
providing the product to the buyer; and
receiving from a party different from the buyer a payment in exchange for providing the product to the buyer,

wherein the payment is based on a first price of the product agreed upon between a retailer and the party different from the buyer and not on a second price of the product that the buyer agreed to pay to the party different from the buyer.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

sending to the purchasing system information related to an attempt to take possession of the product, including the redemption information.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the redemption information comprises a redemption code.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3, wherein the redemption code comprises at least one of: (i) an alphanumeric code; (ii) a visual code; and (iii) a bar code.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3, wherein the redemption code comprises at least one of a pseudo: (i) credit card number; (ii) debit card number; and (iii) banking account number.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3, wherein the redemption code is created that is the product of a one-way hash function.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the redemption information comprises a condition that must be met by the buyer.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the redemption information comprises at least one of: (i) expiration information; (ii) product information; (iii) price information; (iv) buyer identity information and (iv) tax information.

9. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the redemption information comprises penalty information.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 9, wherein the penalty information comprises information related to at least one of: (i) a flat fee to be paid by the buyer for failing to meet a condition; (ii) a percentage fee to be paid by the buyer for failing to meet a condition; (iii) a cost associated with delivering the product to be paid by the buyer for failing to meet a condition; and (iv) voiding a right of the buyer to take possession of the product.

11. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the redemption information comprises a voucher.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the redemption information comprises information associated with a plurality of products.
13. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the redemption information comprises information associated with a plurality of retailers.
14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 13, wherein the redemption information comprises a plurality of identifiers for the product, each identifier being associated with a different retailer.
15. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 14, wherein the plurality of identifiers comprise at least one of a plurality of: Stock Keeping Unit (SKU) numbers; model names; and model numbers.
16. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the redemption information comprises supplemental offer information.
17. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
providing a supplemental product to the buyer in accordance with the supplemental offer information.

18. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
sending to the purchasing system information related to an attempt to take possession of the product, wherein the verification information received from the purchasing system is received in response to said sending.
19. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 18, wherein the information related to the attempt to take possession of the product comprises a redemption code.
20. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 19, wherein the information related to the attempt to take possession of the product further comprises at least one of: (i) a product identifier; (iii) a retailer identifier; and (ii) a purchase price.
21. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 19, wherein the redemption code is a pseudo payment identifier.
22. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 21, wherein the pseudo payment identifier is one of a pseudo: (i) credit card number; (ii) debit card number; and (iii) banking account number.
23. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 21, wherein the pseudo payment identifier is associated with the purchase of the product by the buyer.
24. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 23, wherein said sending of the pseudo payment identifier comprising sending the payment identifier to the purchasing system through a credit card processing system.

25. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 23, wherein the pseudo payment identifier is printed on a voucher, further comprising:

sending the voucher to the credit card processing system as a record of charge.

26. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving from the purchasing system verification information enabling the authorization of a plurality of buyers to take possession of products.

27. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 26, wherein the verification information comprises a plurality of redemption codes.

28. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the payment is received at a time based on when the product is provided to the buyer.

29. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the payment is received periodically and is associated with providing a plurality of products to a plurality of buyers.

30. (CANCELLED)


31. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the payment is an amount based on a settlement price.

32. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the redemption information is associated with a first price, further comprising:

determining an adjustment to the first price.

33. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 32, wherein the adjustment is based on the difference between the first price and a retail price at which a retailer offers the product for sale.

34. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 32, wherein the adjustment is based on at least one of: (i) a sales tax amount; (ii) a penalty amount; and (iii) a coupon amount.

 35. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 32, further comprising:
providing an adjustment amount to the buyer based on said adjustment.

36. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 32, further comprising, wherein the adjustment amount is provided to the buyer: (i) using a payment identifier associated with the buyer; or (ii) using currency.

37. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 32, further comprising:
receiving an adjustment amount from the buyer based on said adjustment.

38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A medium storing instructions adapted to be executed by a processor to perform a method for providing a product to a buyer who purchased the product through a purchasing system, said method comprising:

receiving from the buyer redemption information;
receiving from the purchasing system verification information enabling the authorization of the buyer to take possession of the product;
providing the product to the buyer; and
receiving from a party different from the buyer a payment in exchange for providing the product to the buyer,

wherein the payment is based on a first price of the product agreed upon between a retailer and the party different from the buyer and not on a second price of the product that the buyer agreed to pay to the party different from the buyer.

39. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of operating a retailer system to provide a product to a buyer who purchased the product through a purchasing system, comprising:

receiving from the buyer a pseudo payment identifier;
sending the pseudo payment identifier to a payment processing system, the payment processing system being configured to receive payment identifiers;
receiving an authorization from the payment processing system;
providing the product to the buyer; and
receiving from a party different from the buyer a payment in exchange for providing the product to the buyer,

wherein the payment is based on a first price of the product agreed upon between an operator of a retailer system and the party different from the buyer and not on a second price of the product that the buyer agreed to pay to the party different from the buyer.

40. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 39, wherein the pseudo payment identifier is a pseudo credit card account number and the payment processing system is a credit card processing system configured to receive credit card numbers.

41. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A retailer device, comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device coupled to said processor and storing instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

receive from the buyer redemption information;

receive from the purchasing system verification information enabling the authorization of the buyer to take possession of the product;

provide the product to the buyer; and

receive from a party different from the buyer a payment in exchange for providing the product to the buyer,

wherein the payment is based on a first price of the product agreed upon between a retailer and the party different from the buyer and not on a second price of the product that the buyer agreed to pay to the party different from the buyer.

42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A retailer system apparatus, comprising:

means for receiving from the buyer redemption information;

means for receiving from the purchasing system verification information enabling the authorization of the buyer to take possession of the product;

means for providing the product to the buyer; and

means for receiving from a party different from the buyer a payment in exchange for providing the product to the buyer,

wherein the payment is based on a first price of the product agreed upon between a retailer and the party different from the buyer and not on a second price of the product that the buyer agreed to pay to the party different from the buyer.

43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A medium storing instructions adapted to be executed by a processor to perform a method for operating a retailer system, said method comprising:

receiving from the buyer redemption information;
receiving from the purchasing system verification information enabling the authorization of the buyer to take possession of the product;
providing the product to the buyer; and
receiving from a party different from the buyer a payment in exchange for providing the product to the buyer,

wherein the payment is based on a first price of the product agreed upon between a retailer and the party different from the buyer and not on a second price of the product that the buyer agreed to pay to the party different from the buyer.

44. (CANCELLED)

45. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of providing a product to a buyer who purchased the product through a purchasing system, comprising:

receiving from the purchasing system verification information authorizing a plurality of buyers to take possession of products;
receiving from a buyer a redemption code;
comparing the received redemption code with the received verification information;

providing the product to the buyer; and
receiving from the purchasing system a payment in exchange for providing the product to the buyer,

wherein the payment is based on a first price of the product agreed upon between a retailer and the purchasing system and not on a second price of the product that the buyer agreed to pay to the purchasing system.

46. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of operating a purchasing system, comprising:

arranging through a communication network for a buyer to purchase a product from a seller,

wherein the buyer agrees to pay a first price for the product;

sending redemption information to the buyer, the redemption information enabling the buyer to take possession of the product at a retailer, different from the seller, that offers the product for sale at a second price; and

providing to the retailer a third price for the product once the buyer takes possession of the product at the retailer,

wherein the third price is a price for the product agreed upon between the retailer and the seller and is not based on the first price that the buyer agreed to pay for the product.

47. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 46, wherein said arranging for the buyer to purchase the product comprises:

receiving a buyer offer, including a buyer-defined first price and information about the product, from the buyer; and

determining if the buyer offer will be accepted.

48. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 47, wherein said determining comprises at least one of: (i) sending information about the buyer offer to at least one seller; and (ii) locally determining if the buyer offer will be accepted.

49. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 46, wherein said arranging for the buyer to purchase the product comprises receiving payment from the buyer of an amount based on the first price.

50. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 49, wherein the payment is received at a time based on one of: (i) when the purchasing system arranges for the buyer to purchase the product; and (ii) when the buyer takes possession of the product at the retailer.

51. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 46, wherein said arranging for the buyer to purchase the product comprises receiving a payment identifier from the buyer.

52. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 51, wherein said arranging for the buyer to purchase the product comprises one of: (i) charging an amount based on the first price using the payment identifier; and (ii) reserving an amount based on the first price using the payment identifier.

53. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 46, wherein said arranging for the buyer to purchase the product comprises selecting at least one retailer from a plurality of retailers.

54. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 46, wherein the redemption information comprises a redemption code.

55. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 54, wherein the redemption code comprises at least one of: (i) an alphanumeric code; (ii) a visual code; and (iii) a bar code.

56. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 54, wherein the redemption code comprises at least one of a pseudo: (i) credit card number; (ii) debit card number; and (iii) banking account number.

57. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 54, wherein the redemption code is a product of a one-way hash function.



58. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 46, wherein the redemption information comprises a condition that must be met by the buyer.

59. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 46, wherein the redemption information comprises expiration information.

60. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 46, wherein the redemption information comprises penalty information.

101 61. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 60, wherein the penalty information comprises information related to at least one of: (i) a flat fee to be paid by the buyer for failing to meet a condition; (ii) a percentage fee to be paid by the buyer for failing to meet a condition; (iii) a cost associated with delivering the product to be paid by the buyer for failing to meet a condition; and (iv) voiding a right of the buyer to take possession of the product.

62. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 46, wherein the redemption information comprises information that enables the creation of a voucher.

63. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 46, wherein the redemption information comprises information associated with a plurality of products.

64. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 46, wherein the redemption information comprises information associated with a plurality of retailers.

65. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 64, wherein the redemption information comprises a plurality of identifiers for the product, each identifier being associated with a different retailer.

66. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 65, wherein the plurality of identifiers comprise at least one of a plurality of: Stock Keeping Unit (SKU) numbers; model names; and model numbers.

67. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 46, further comprising adding supplemental offer information to the redemption information.

68. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 67, further comprising:
sending to a second retailer supplemental verification information enabling the second retailer to authorize the buyer to take possession of a supplemental product.

69. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 68, wherein the supplemental verification information is only sent when the buyer has taken possession of the product at the retailer.

70. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 69, wherein the second retailer is the first retailer.

71. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 46, further comprising:
receiving from the retailer information related to an attempt to take possession of the product; and
sending to the retailer a verification authorizing the buyer to take possession of the product.
72. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 71, wherein the redemption information and the information related to the attempt to take possession of the product comprise a redemption code.
73. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 72, wherein the information related to the attempt to take possession of the product further comprises at least one of: (i) a product identifier; (ii) a retailer identifier; and (iii) a purchase price.
74. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 72, wherein the redemption code is a pseudo payment identifier.
75. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 74, wherein the pseudo payment identifier is one of a pseudo: (i) credit card number; (ii) debit card number; and (iii) banking account number.
76. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 75, wherein the pseudo payment identifier is uniquely associated with the purchase of the product by the buyer.
77. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 76, wherein said receiving from the retailer the pseudo payment identifier comprises receiving the identifier through a credit card processing system.

78. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 77, wherein the pseudo payment identifier is provided on a voucher, and the retailer sends the voucher to the purchasing system as a record of charge.

79. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 76, wherein said arranging for the buyer to take possession of the product at the retailer further comprises adjusting a spending limit associated with the pseudo payment identifier.

80. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 79, wherein said adjusting the spending limit comprises establishing a minimum spending amount and a maximum spending amount.

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81. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 80, wherein the information related to the attempt to take possession of the product comprises a purchase price and said sending a verification is only performed if the purchase price is more than the minimum spending amount and less than the maximum spending amount.

82. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 80, wherein said adjusting is based on at least one of: the first price; the second price; a settlement price to be provided to the retailer in exchange for providing the product to the buyer; a penalty amount; and a tax amount.

83. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 80, wherein the spending limit is re-adjusted when the buyer takes possession of the product at the retailer.

84. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 71, wherein the redemption information comprises a redemption code and the verification is only sent to the retailer after the information related to the attempt to take possession of the product is compared to the redemption code.

85. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 71, wherein the redemption information comprises a redemption code, and further comprising:

sending reminder information to the buyer if information related to an attempt to take possession of the product corresponding to the redemption code has not been received in a predetermined period of time.

29 86. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 85, wherein the reminder information is sent using: electronic mail; a receipt generated at a point of sale terminal; a pager; a telephone; a facsimile machine; a Web page; subsequent redemption information; and regular mail.

87. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 46, further comprising:

sending to the retailer redemption information authorizing a plurality of buyers to take possession of products.

88. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 87, wherein the redemption information comprises a plurality of redemption codes.

89. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 46, wherein said arranging for the buyer to purchase the product comprises receiving payment from the buyer of an amount based on the first price adjusted with a subsequent amount.

90. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 89, wherein the subsequent amount comprises at least one of: a tax amount; a return privilege amount; and a guaranteed availability amount.
91. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 89, wherein the subsequent amount comprises a penalty amount.
92. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 91, wherein the penalty amount is imposed when the buyer has not taken possession of the product from the retailer within a predetermined period of time.
93. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 92, wherein the penalty amount is associated with a cost to ship the product to the buyer.
94. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 46, wherein the purchasing system arranges for a plurality of buyers to take possession of a plurality of products at the retailer.
95. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 94, wherein the purchasing system arranges for the retailer to receive payment of a settlement price as each of the plurality of products is provided.
96. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 94, wherein the purchasing system arranges for the retailer to receive a payment corresponding to a plurality of settlement prices after providing a plurality of products.

97. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of operating a purchasing system, comprising:

arranging through a communication network for a buyer to purchase a product from a seller at a first price;

selecting a retailer from a plurality of retailers, the retailer offering the product for sale at a second price;

sending to the buyer redemption information, including a redemption code;

receiving information related to an attempt to take possession of the product;

sending a verification authorizing the buyer to take possession of the product;

receiving from the buyer payment of an amount based on the first price; and

providing to the retailer an amount based on a third price for the product,

wherein the third price is based on an agreement between an operator of the purchasing system and the retailer and not on the first price that the buyer agreed to pay for the product.

98. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 97, wherein the redemption information and the information related to an attempt to take possession of the product comprise a sixteen digit pseudo credit card account number, including four digits associated with the purchasing system and twelve digits associated with the buyer's purchase of the product.

99. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 97, wherein said receiving payment is only performed after said sending of the verification to the retailer.

100. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 97, further comprising:

reserving, using a payment identifier associated with the buyer, an amount based on the first price.

101. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of operating a purchasing system, comprising:

receiving through a communication network a buyer offer, including a buyer-defined first price, information about a product and a buyer payment identifier, from a buyer;

determining if the buyer offer will be accepted by a seller;

selecting at least one retailer from a plurality of retailers;

adjusting a spending limit associated with a pseudo payment identifier;

19' sending redemption information, including the pseudo payment identifier and information enabling the creation of a voucher, to the buyer;

receiving the pseudo payment identifier from a credit card processing system;

sending a verification authorizing the buyer to take possession of the product;

re-adjusting the spending limit associated with the pseudo payment identifier;

receiving payment of an amount based on the first price using the buyer payment identifier; and

providing to a retailer at which the buyer took possession of the product a second price,

wherein the second price is a price previously agreed upon between an operator of the purchasing system and at least one of the retailer and the seller and is not based on the first price defined by the buyer.

102. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A purchasing system device, comprising:

- a processor; and
- a storage device coupled to said processor and storing instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:
 - arrange through a communication network for a buyer to purchase a product from a seller,
 - wherein the buyer agrees to pay a first price for the product,
 - send redemption information to the buyer, the redemption information enabling the buyer to take possession of the product at a retailer that offers the product for sale at a second price; and
 - provide to the retailer a third price for the product once the buyer takes possession of the product at the retailer,
 - wherein the third price is a price for the product agreed upon between the retailer and the seller and is not based on the first price that the buyer agreed to pay for the product.

103. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A purchasing system apparatus, comprising:

- means for arranging through a communication network for a buyer to purchase a product from a seller,
- wherein the buyer agrees to pay a first price for the product;
- means for sending redemption information to the buyer, the redemption information enabling the buyer to take possession of the product at a retailer that offers the product for sale at a second price; and
- means for providing to the retailer a third price for the product once the buyer takes possession of the product at the retailer,
- wherein the third price is a price for the product agreed upon between the retailer and the seller and is not based on the first price that the buyer agreed to pay for the product.

104. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A medium storing instructions adapted to be executed by a processor to perform a method for operating a purchasing system, said method comprising:

arranging through a communication network for a buyer to purchase a product from a seller,

wherein the buyer agrees to pay a first price for the product;

sending redemption information to the buyer, the redemption information enabling the buyer to take possession of the product at a retailer that offers the product for sale at a second price; and

providing to the retailer a third price for the product once the buyer takes possession of the product at the retailer,

wherein the third price is a price for the product agreed upon between the retailer and the seller and is not based on the first price that the buyer agreed to pay for the product.

105. (CANCELLED)

106. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of operating a purchasing system, comprising:

arranging through a communication network for a buyer to purchase a product from a seller,

wherein the buyer agrees to pay a first price for the product;

sending redemption information to the buyer; the redemption information enabling the buyer to receive the product from a delivery service; and

providing to at least one of a retailer and the delivery service a second price for the product once the product is delivered to the buyer,

wherein the second price is a price for the product agreed upon between at least one of the retailer and an operator of the delivery service and an operator of the purchasing system and is not based on the first price.

107. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 106, further comprising:
receiving from the delivery service information related to a product delivery; and
sending to the delivery service verification information enabling the delivery
service to authorize the delivery of the product with the buyer.

108. (CANCELLED)

109. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of operating a purchasing system,
comprising:

arranging through a communication network for a buyer to purchase a product
from a seller,

wherein the buyer agrees to pay a first price for the product;

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sending redemption information to the buyer, the redemption information
enabling the buyer to take possession of the product at a retailer that offers the product
for sale at a second price; and

providing to the retailer a third price for the product once the buyer takes
possession of the product at the retailer,

wherein the third price is a price for the product agreed upon between the
retailer and at least one of the seller and the purchasing system and is not based on the
first price that the buyer agreed to pay for the product.

110. (CANCELLED)
